

Nobody's darling but mine

Alexandria couple celebrates 82 years of marriage

By Celeste Edenloff
Alexandria Echo Press

Sept. 3 is a very special day for Dan and Mary Kruse of Alexandria. The couple, who both grew up in the Granite Falls area, will be celebrating their wedding anniversary.

With Dan, who is known to many as “Buster,” turning 102 this past April and his wife, just five years younger, turning 97 in February, the couple will be celebrating 82 years of wedded bliss. Yes, they have been married for more than eight decades. He was 20 when they wed, while she was just 15.

The Echo Press contacted the Minnesota Office of Vital Records to see if they held the record for the longest married couple in Minnesota. However, Neeti Sethi from that office, said the Office of Vital Records only collects statistical data on the marriage certificates filed and licenses issued and that it does not collect data on individuals.

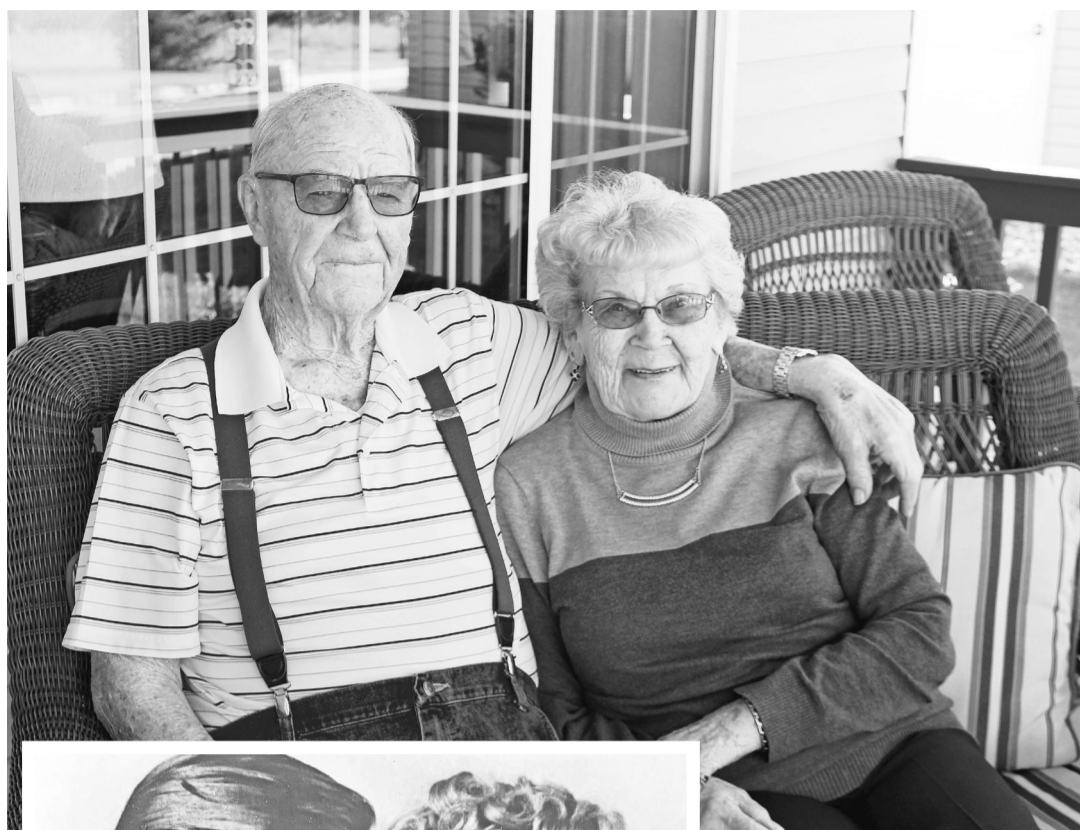
Dan and Mary have four children – David, Jerry, Dennis and Linda – who are all retired. They have at least seven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren, according to Dan, who said if those numbers weren't right, they were close enough.

“It's hard to keep track when you don't see them often,” he said with a great big grin on his face and a slight chuckle. He asked Mary to double check the list, as he wrote them all down and she said it looked right to her.

The couple live in a townhome on Seven Pines Street on their own and Dan still drives. In fact, he said he loves it and that they try to get out several times a week.

Dan, who has a great sense of humor and is quite the jokester, according to family members, said oftentimes while they are out and about, they end up at one of their favorite restaurants in town – Angelina's.

“If we drive by there, the



Above: Dan and Mary Kruse sit on the front porch of their Alexandria townhome. They will celebrate 82 years of marriage on Friday, Sept. 3.

Celeste Edenloff / Alexandria Echo Press

Left: Dan and Mary Kruse, shown in their 1939 wedding photo, are celebrating their 82nd anniversary on Friday, Sept. 3.

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important than her working,” he said.

After Dan retired, the couple moved to Maple Lake near Forada. They had had a cabin on the lake, but then built a house there, which they lived in for 27 years. The two then moved into Alexandria to their townhome, which they've called home for 14 years.

Although he was retired when they moved to the area, Dan said he helped with “potato picking” for several summers, which he said he enjoyed.

The couple also loved to spend their time together fishing, bowling, golfing, vacationing with family and just going out and having fun. Dan also hunted with family and friends, although Dan said it was just for sport for him as the two of them aren't fond of eating the rewards of his excursions.

“He keeps busy,” said Mary, smiling at Dan. “That's what keeps him young.”

When Mary was asked what her secret was

for staying young and living a long life, without hesitation, she quipped, “Lefse!”

And then she said that Dan likes lutefisk with his lefse. He didn't argue.

When Dan was asked if there was anything else he liked, he looked across the table at Mary, twinkle in his eye and asked, “What do I like besides you?”

Mary just laughed and smiled right back at him as he then replied, “I like potato pancakes and bacon.”

Secrets of a long marriage

Dan and Mary, who still like to go out together and have a good time, said their marriage wasn't perfect but they made it work.

“We had little arguments here and there, but we always worked it out,” Dan said.

Mary chimed in and said, “He's been a good husband.”

She also said he was a good dancer and a good baseball player. And she loved when they fished together although, while starting to laugh, she said there were times when he was afraid she would outfish him.

He just smiled and shrugged his shoulders and then added, “There were times she was ready to throw me in the lake!”

Dan said his advice for anyone thinking about getting married is to be honest with one another and to make sure to “have a little lovin' in there.”

He also said to make sure it's the one you love and to make sure you're in love with that person.

When asked why he asked Mary to marry him, Dan just lovingly looked at his wife and said, “That's the only way I'd get to keep her. I loved her and she made me happy.”

Once upon a time, Dan was quite the musician – he played banjo and sang and was in a band with his family. Dan said he used to sing to Mary, which she said she loved.

And although it took a few minutes, Dan started serenading his beloved bride.

“Come lay by my side little darlin', come lay your cool hand on my brow. Promise me that you will always be nobody's darlin' but mine.”

Email reporter Celeste Edenloff at cedenloff@echopress.com

car just seems to have a mind of its own and pulls right into the parking lot,” he said.

Although they do go out to eat on a somewhat regular basis, Mary still likes to cook and loves to make hotdishes, she said.

While looking at Dan with a twinkle in her eye, Mary said though that Dan is the one who does the dishes and that she appreciates it.

Dancing the night away

So how did the couple meet? At first, Dan said he didn't want to share the story, but after looking over at Mary and she flashed him a smile, seemingly giving him the go-ahead, he did.

In their younger days, the two often found themselves at dances in Marshall. Dan said he kind of knew Mary, but hadn't talked to her before.

Then one night, he saw

Mary head for the restroom, which he said was outside. He thought about following her, but decided to wait until she came back in. When she did, he asked her if she would like to dance with him.

Thankfully, she said yes.

“She was a pretty cute girl so I thought I better talk to her,” said Dan, while grinning ear-to-ear at his wife. “We danced a couple of dances, then we had a date.”

And the rest, he said, is basically history as they have been together ever since.

Living life

After the couple married, they lived in St. Paul where Dan worked for the Ford Motor Company. He retired from there in 1979. Mary was a housewife, said Dan, although she worked a bit here and there, he said.

“Family was more

How much does the truth matter in biographical movies?

This Saturday is one of my favorite days of the year. It's Labor Day weekend, the fall weather is coming in and college football is back.

The first full Saturday of college football is jam-packed with some of the best matchups all year. It's the first real football weekend of the fall, and it's wire-to-wire fun for college football die-hard like myself.

When certain significant sporting events come around, I like to rewatch old sports movies. Before March Madness starts, I always watch the Jim Valvano 30-for-30. Before the Minnesota Wild plays in a playoff game, I like to watch “Miracle.” This week I made time to rewatch “Rudy.”

“Rudy” is my favorite college football movie,



JARED RUBADO
QuaranTV

which has become a hot take over the last decade. Time has not been kind to the underdog story of the undersized kid that wanted to play for Notre Dame. While I do think “Remember the Titans” is a better movie, I have a soft spot for “Rudy.” Where it's fallen off in a lot of people's eyes is the dishonesty in the events of “Rudy,” which could be putting it lightly. Almost every minor detail in the movie was incorrect from when the last game was played to many of the supporting characters not existing in real life.

“Rudy” is a biographical picture, which means it's a dramatized version of a historical event. It claims to be the story of Daniel Ruettiger, the ultimate underdog that beat the odds to play football for the mighty Notre Dame Fighting Irish. And to go along with the inconsistencies of the minor details, almost every big scene in the movie didn't happen.

If you haven't seen “Rudy,” this column might not make a ton of sense. But for those who have, I hope this doesn't ruin the movie for you. For instance, when Rudy's teammates put their jerseys on the coach's desk in protest of him not making the roster, that never happened.

Rudy had a significant conflict with his older brother Frank. Well,

Frank isn't real either. Rudy was the oldest of his siblings.

Rudy also befriended the stadium manager named Fortune, who famously let him work to help pay tuition and gave him the monologue that convinced him never to give up. Not only was Fortune a fake character as well, but the GI Bill would've covered Rudy's tuition struggles. Rudy was in the Navy, which paid for his tuition at Holy Cross and Notre Dame. The film didn't mention his service at any point.

The final scene shows the entire crowd at South Bend, IN, chanting “Rudy” in hopes that he would get on the field for the last few plays of the game. In reality, it was a small section of the crowd, and the chanting didn't start until he

sacked the Georgia Tech quarterback.

The film ends with the team carrying Rudy off the field in a pure moment of happiness and celebration. Well, that might have been false as well. According to Joe Montana, a quarterback for Notre Dame at the time, Rudy was carried off on the field by “three of the biggest pranksters on the team.”

Despite what is likely a sad reality, it's time to ask if this matters. Does the entire movie essentially being a lie matter to you? Does it matter that the real Rudy was the one that came up with the idea for a film about himself with so many inaccuracies? For me, it doesn't.

The more significant the historical event is, the more it should align with what really

happened. The story of a scrub football player getting into one game for two plays has zero impact on history. If this movie weren't made, hardly anybody would care. If we are talking about a historical event like Watergate or a sports figure like Michael Jordan, it needs to align more with the truth.

At some point, I will bring up “Bohemian Rhapsody” again. As a Queen fan, no movie has infuriated me more than “Bohemian Rhapsody” with all of its blatant inaccuracies. But I don't have another 1,000 words to get into it. But in some sense, every biopic stretches the truth. You have to decide if that matters or not.

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@echopress.com